

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Original) A method of manufacturing an optical fibre, comprising:
 - (i) forming a preform for drawing into the fibre, the preform comprising a bundle of elongate elements arranged to form a first region that becomes a cladding region of the fibre and a second region that becomes a core region of the fibre;
 - (ii) drawing the preform into the fibre, characterised in that (a) the bundle of elongate elements comprises a plurality of elongate elements of a lower purity dielectric material and at least one elongate element of a higher purity dielectric material and (b) the first region comprises a plurality of the lower purity elements and the second region comprises the higher purity element.
2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the second region comprises a plurality of higher purity elements.
3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, in which the first region includes at least one higher purity element.
4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3, in which the first region includes a ring of higher purity elements that substantially surround, and are adjacent to, the second region.
5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, in which the second region includes at least part of at least one of the lower purity elements, such that the core region of the drawn fibre includes lower purity material as well as higher purity material.
6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 5, in which the second region includes at least part of the elements forming an innermost ring of lower purity elements that substantially surround, and are adjacent to, the higher purity element (s).

7. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 6, in which the only parts of the elements forming the ring that are included in the second region are the parts of the elements adjacent to the cane.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, in which the drawn fibre is a photonic crystal fibre such that the cladding region of the drawn fibre comprises a plurality of elongate bodies of a first refractive index embedded in a matrix material of a second refractive index, different from the first.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, in which the lower purity elements comprise an outer portion that forms the matrix material and an inner portion that forms the elongate body, in the cladding region of the drawn fibre.

10. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 9, in which the lower purity elements are dielectric tubes, such that the inner portion is a hole.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, in which the higher purity element (s) is/are a cane or canes.

12. (Original) A preform for drawing into an optical fibre, the preform comprising a bundle of elongate elements arranged to form a first region that becomes a cladding region of the fibre and a second region that becomes a core region of the fibre, characterised in that

(a) the bundle of elongate elements comprises a plurality of elongate elements of a lower purity dielectric material and at least one elongate element of a higher purity dielectric material and

(b) the first region comprises a plurality of the lower purity elements and the second region comprises the higher purity element.

13. (Original) An optical fibre, the fibre comprising a cladding region and a core region, characterised in that the cladding region comprises dielectric material of a lower purity and the core region comprises dielectric material of a higher purity.

14. (Original) A fibre as claimed in claim 13, in which the cladding region comprises a plurality of elongate bodies of a first refractive index, embedded in a matrix material of a second refractive index.

15. (Original) A fibre as claimed in claim 14, in which the elongate bodies are elongate holes.

16. (Currently Amended) A fibre as claimed in claim 13 ~~any of claims 13 to 15~~, in which the core region includes material of a lower purity.

17. (Currently Amended) A fibre as claimed in claim 13 ~~any of claims 13 to 15~~, in which the cladding region includes material of a higher purity.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)